

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 HEW-08 SCI-06 AID-20

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D:MSAMUELS (IN DRAFT)

S/S-O: R. ELTZ

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O R 160310Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101857

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, PO, SZ, US

SUBJECT: WHA: GUINEA-BISSAU APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

REF: STATE 0983L6, GENEVA 2961, LISBON 1915

1. USDEL SHOULD VOTE AGAINST GUINEA-BISSAU'S APPLICATION
TO JOIN WHO.

2. WE ARE PLEASED WITH LIBERALIZATION NEW GOVERNMENT HAS
BROUGHT TO PORTUGAL AND HOPE FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF
STRUGGLES IN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. HOWEVER, INSURGENTS IN
PORTUGUESE GUINEA CONTINUE TO OCCUPY ONLY ABOUT A THIRD OF
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THE TERRITORY WITH A SMALL POPULATION ALONG BORDERS WITH

SENEGAL AND GUINEA. ACCORDINGLY, GUINEA-BISSAU STILL LACKS BASIC ATTRIBUTES OF STATEHOOD AND FAILS TO MEET TRADITIONAL US CRITERIA FOR SUCH CASES.

3. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES US ACQUIESCENCE (I.E., ANY ACTION SHORT OF NEGATIVE VOTE) IN GUINEA-BISSAU MEMBERSHIP IN WHO AT THIS TIME; (A) COULD HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT UPON NEW REGIME IN PORTUGAL AND UPON US RELATIONS WITH IT; (B) COULD WEAKEN RESISTANCE OF THIS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ADMISSION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WITH EVEN LESS VALID CLAIMS, AND (C) COULD PREJUDGE US POSITION IN SECURITY COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO EXPECTED APPLICATION BY GUINEA-BISSAU THIS FALL FOR UN MEMBERSHIP.

4. USDEL SHOULD EXPLAIN VOTE AS FOLLOWS: AS THE USG HAS EXPLAINED IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PAST, THE USG IS OF THE VIEW THAT REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU DOES NOT MEET MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR STATEHOOD. THUS WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME SUPPORT THE ADMISSION OF GUINEA-BISSAU TO THE WHO. THE US VIEWS WITH SATISFACTION THE FACT THAT THE NEW REGIME IN PORTUGAL HAS OFFERED NEGOTIATIONS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. THE US HAS CONSISTENTLY CHAMPIONED THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

RUSH

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